

IN RE: Request for Confidential Treatment of Annual  
Reports

) ORDER GRANTING  
) HOME TELEPHONE  
) COMPANY, INC.'S  
) MOTION FOR  
) CONFIDENTIAL  
) TREATMENT

In its motion, Home Telephone states that the Annual Reports contain certain information that is commercially sensitive and contain proprietary business information relating directly to the Company's financial operations that should be exempt from public disclosure. According to Home Telephone, disclosure of such information would be harmful in light of the competitive telecommunications environment and access to this

information could give actual and potential competitors an unfair competitive advantage. In accordance with the guidelines set out in Commission Order No. 2005-226, Home Telephone filed the Company's Annual Reports in separate and sealed packages clearly marked "confidential" from the Company's filed "public" versions. By correspondence filed May 14, 2008, ORS advises that it has no objection to the Company's request.

A review of the material in question in the Company's reports establishes that the material does provide detailed information concerning Home Telephone's business which is sensitive. The South Carolina Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") allows exemption from disclosure proprietary business information that meets a definition of "trade secrets." S.C. Code Ann. Section 30-4-40(a)(1) states that matters which may be exempt from FOIA include: "(1) Trade secrets, which are defined as unpatented, secret, commercially valuable plans, appliances, formulas, or processes....Trade secrets also include, for those public bodies who market services or products in competition with others, feasibility, planning, and marketing studies, and evaluations and other materials which contain references to potential customers, competitive information or evaluation."

Because the Commission finds that the Annual Reports of Home Telephone contain certain information that is competitively sensitive and meets the definition of "trade secrets" as defined under FOIA, the Commission grants the motion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1       The Motion of Home Telephone Company, Inc. for confidential treatment is granted. Accordingly, certain information contained in the Company's Annual Report

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for year ending 2007 and the revised Annual Report for year ending 2006 shall be maintained under seal and withheld from public disclosure.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

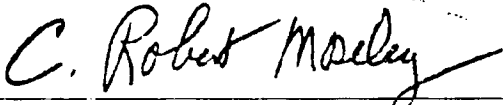
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



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C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)